



## U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release

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### FORMER CITY PHARMACIST INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL DRUG DEALING

PHILADELPHIA - United States Attorney Laurie Magid today announced the filing of an indictment<sup>1</sup> against Lawrence Young, a former licensed Philadelphia pharmacy owner, charging him with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances and distribution of controlled substances. According to the indictment, from 2001 through October 2006, Young operated the pharmacy as a haven for drug dealers and drug addicts to fill sham medical prescriptions for frequently abused prescription drugs containing controlled substances, such as Endocet, Roxicet, Lorcet, and Xanax, and the frequently abused syrups Tussionex and Phenergan with Codeine. The drug dealers and drug addicts fraudulently obtained the sham prescriptions in their own names and in the names of others from corrupt doctors, such as Joseph L. Borkson, who was previously charged, who issued the invalid prescriptions. Young filled the prescriptions knowing they were shams.

“Young is charged with illegally distributing potent, addictive prescription drugs,” said Magid. “As a licensed pharmacist, Young had a duty to fill only legitimate prescriptions for people with medical needs. Young systematically abused this license so that he could line his own pockets. He posed a grave danger to the public by selling these highly addictive drugs in large quantities to people he knew were distributing them on the streets of Philadelphia.”

“Drug abuse and the illegal sale of controlled substances are criminal problems that the FBI remains committed to addressing,” said Special Agent in Charge of the Philadelphia Division of the FBI, Janice K. Fedarcy, “and schemes involving corrupt medical professionals such as doctors and pharmacists will continue to be aggressively pursued by our office in partnership with the DEA. A license to operate a pharmacy is not a license to sell drugs to whomever, or whenever, you want.”

“It is very sad when a professional Pharmacist who has taken an oath and is entrusted with helping cure the sick instead uses his license to deal drugs,” said Acting DEA Special Agent in Charge Karl Colder.

As a pharmacist, Young had a duty to verify that each prescription he filled was legitimate. In violation of this duty, the indictment alleges, Young filled bundles of multiple sham prescriptions for frequently abused prescription drugs, for regular drug-dealing customers whom he personally observed and dealt with, in exchange for cash and other benefits. These

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<sup>1</sup> An indictment is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

regular drug-dealing customers waited in line outside Young's Pharmacy in the morning to have their fraudulent prescriptions filled. To avoid detection, Young set an artificial limit on the number of prescriptions he would fill per day from Borkson to keep the Borkson prescriptions from being consecutively recorded and reported to governmental authorities responsible for tracking prescriptions.

#### **INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT**

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE
Lawrence Young	Cherry Hill, NJ	68 years old

If convicted, defendant Young faces a maximum possible sentence of 80 years imprisonment, a lifetime of supervised release, including a mandatory minimum sentence of three years of supervised release, a \$4 million fine, and a \$400 special assessment.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Alexander T.H. Nguyen and Andrea G. Foulkes.

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